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HEADQUARTERS, 3RD TANK DESTROYER GROUP  
 REAR AREA SECURITY SECTION  
 APO 230, U. S. ARMY

17 May 1945

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Report After

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D.C.  
 (Through Channels)



1. This is the 5th such report to be submitted by the Rear Area Security Section of this headquarters.

2. During the month of April this Hq supervised and directed the activities of its normally attached unit, the 17th Belgian Fusilier Battalion plus other battalions made available because of the scope and importance of the requirements placed upon the Rear Area Security Section. Battalions under operational control and dates thereof include:

941st FA Bn:	2 - 6 April
656th FA Bn:	6 - 30 April
997th FA Bn:	7 - 20 April
17th Belg Fus Bn:	1 - 30 April

3. The V Corps Rear Area Security Section of 3rd TD Group was located at Corps Hq during the entire month, and moved with Corps Hq. Locations and inclusive dates are as follows:

Neustadt	Coord. (G 974511)	to 02 April 1200
Wolfhagen	(B 998042)	02 April to 09 April 1700
Hann Munden	(C 331147)	09 April to 11 April 1200
Heiligenstadt	(C 670115)	11 April to 12 April 1000
Weissensee	(J 325941)	12 April to 15 April 0800
Naumberg	(J 834923)	15 April to 30 April 0900
Grafenwohr	(P 0033)	30 April to

4. The following conditions existed and challenged security during the entire month; (a) The large area of the Corps sector; (b) the frequent movement of troop units; (c) long travelling distances from the Corps CP to most of the Corps sector; (d) the difficulty of maintaining adequate communication under such circumstances; (e) the large number of by-passed German soldiers, some in uniform, many in civilian clothes, and many armed; (f) the large number of liberated displaced persons; (g) the many important enemy installations which were over-run and captured.

5. Because of the conditions described in Par 4 above, it was necessary for the 3rd TD Group to maintain a Rear echelon which located itself, and moved each time a boundary changed, in the approximate center of the Corps zone. The locations, and inclusive dates were as follows:

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Ransbach	Coord.	(F 998077)	31 March to 1 April
5 mi SW Neustadt		(G 9411481)	2 April to 9 April
Zierenburg		(B 092086)	10 April to 13 April
Heiligenstadt		(C 680114)	14 April to 19 April
Schlotheim		(J 039985)	20 April to 28 April
Rosslieben		(O 578062)	29 April to 1 May



6. By 1 April, troop units were moving forward at such frequent intervals that appointment of area commanders and announcement thereof in official orders quite often came at or after the time of movement of the unit Hq from the area. It soon became apparent that the only relatively stable unit would be 3rd TD Group Rear, and accordingly the Rear Echelon commander was appointed Corps Rear Area Security commander for part or all of the Corps sector thereafter. On 1 April, 3rd TD Group Rear and the 17th Belgian Fusilier Bn was on missions for Corps Rear Area Security as follows:

- Gp Hq RR and Bn Hq - Move from Ransbach to Neustadt Wald - and secure small enemy Ammo loading plant.
- 1st Co Hq and 2d Plat - Guard Corps Cl I and III Truckhead, near Neuwied.
- 1st Plat - Guard Corps Air Strip, near Neuwied.
- 3rd Plat - Guard 3250 Sig Serv Co, near Neuwied.
- 2nd Co Hq and 1st and 2nd Flats - Guard captured enemy warehouse and dump - Fachingen
- 3rd Plat - Secure 2 enemy medical dumps and 2 enemy Signal dumps - vicinity Limburg.
- 3rd Co Hq and all Platoons - Guard of ASP 151 Gross Linden - near Giessen
- 4th Co Hq and all Platoons - Secure large enemy Ammo loading plants in Neustadt Wald, SW of Neustadt.
- 5th Co Hq and all Platoons - Guard of all Corps Ordnance shops and installations

7. The rapid advance of the Corps caused it to capture and over-run large numbers of enemy installations of economic value. The Corps Security Commander was charged with securing and safeguarding these installations. The primary considerations which generally determined that a guard was to be placed on an installation was;

- (1) If the installation could be used against us; example; collections of guns, panzerfausts, ammunition and explosive dumps.

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(2) If the installation could be used for or by us; example: utility installations, vital communications facilities / bridges, telephone repeater and/or exchange stations, valuable supply dumps containing medical, chemical, signal, QM, engineer and ordnance materials.

(3) Essential civilian activities or commodities in danger of pillage or wanton destruction by the local populace, principally displaced persons, hospitals, utility installations, civilian food and clothing warehouses or stores.

8. The number of such installations reported increased rapidly. This necessitated a system for receiving, recording, securing such installations. The system was placed into effect on 4 April, and functioned efficiently after some educational work was done to get the reporting agencies to give reasonably accurate locations of what they had discovered.

9. The activities relating to security in the Corps zone and guard of the enemy installations reported and recorded will be presented in this report in chronological order. The units performing the security or guard were split into a number of small groups ranging from a platoon in size and composition from one locality to another, therefore it is not possible or feasible to report the activities of each unit as such. The activities are recorded in the paragraphs to follow.

10. 1 April

a. As of this date, Belgian units were located on missions as described in Par 3. Several units (2nd Co complete, elements of 3rd Co, and 4th Co) had just completed moving on 31 March, and were in the process of taking over their new assignments on this date. 4th Co complete moved to the large ordnance ammo loading plant on 1 April, relieved elements of 2nd Cavalry troop and took 22 P/W's (19 in uniform) in the area vacated by the cavalry.

b. The 16th BGS, commanded by Captain Crow, was sent 16 additional Belgian soldiers for work in cleaning up arms and ammunition in the Corps zone. Captain Crow now has the entire 17th Bn Pioneer platoon, totalling 23 men.

c. The 2nd Platoon of 5th Co, attached to Ordnance Maintenance Co captured 1 officer and 40 other P/W's.

11. 2 April

a. Received report that 20 SS troops were in woods SE of Neustadt, vicinity Arnheim. Dispatched 3 of the Group armored vehicles, and 20 men from AA Platoon, Belgian Bn Hq with Captain Ferris in charge. The detail captured 26 German soldiers and 3 officers, taking a number of weapons from them.

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b. The 5th Co Hq, Belgians attached to 526th Ord Co, captured 4 SS in vicinity of their Hq.

c. The 941st FA was attached for operations to the Security Commander on 2 April. The Bn was assigned to take over the guard of all installations and materiel in the Fritzlar area, at that time in the forward part of the Corps sector. Most of the Bn was in the vicinity of Neuwied, near the Rhine river. All available cargo transportation at this time was detached and was being used as a trucking unit to haul supplies to the rapidly eastward moving troops. The Bn moved by shuttling from the vicinity of Neuwied to the Fritzlar area, closing most of the troops in by dark of 3 April.

#### 12. 3 April

a. A new Corps Rear boundary and Division rear boundaries were announced by Corps G-4. The new Corps zone was divided into 3 areas. Staff officers were assigned to start organizing each area immediately. Area No. 1 was to be coordinated from the Security Hq and Area No.s 2 and 3 from 3rd TD Group rear echelon. A minimum of two traffic control points were set up in each area. These check points were not to control military traffic but to check identity to determine if any enemy was using U.S. transportation or equipment.

b. Elements of 941st FA, guarding the repeater station at Jesburg, took 4 P/W's, delivered to them by a French displaced person.

c. A report was received that troops were urgently needed in Giessen to assist in guard of vital installations and maintaining law and order among the displaced persons who were breaking into warehouses containing liquor and spirits. The AA Platoon of the Belgian Co Hq was the only troops available, and they were promptly dispatched to Giessen, where they reported to, and worked under the supervision of Military Government.

d. By consolidation and rearranging of personnel in the Limburg-Fachingen area, the 2nd Platoon of 2nd Co was made available and transported to Hq pending another mission forward of the Hq.

#### 13. 4 April

a. The 941st FA detachment at Jesburg reported apprehending 12 P/W's.

b. 2nd Platoon, 1st Co killed an enemy 2nd Lt at Class III DP near Wetzlar, after the enemy failed to cease suspicious activities upon being challenged, and to halt as ordered.

#### 14. 5 April

a. Received notification from G-3 to guard 5 bridges over Eden river, vicinity Fritzlar. 941st FA placed guards.

b. 941st FA also placed guards on the airfield south of Fritzlar and

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on items in Arolsen as follows; 1 bank, 11 hospitals, 1 building containing SS records. In Phillipindorf 941st placed a guard on an ammo assembly plant.

c. 3rd Co released in place from guard of Ordnance ASP 147, 150. Received notice too late to get them on this date.

d. 941st FA Bn CP moved from Fritzlär to Landau (B 938053) to be near center of items they are guarding.

e. 4th Co captured 1 SS and 3 other P/W's at Ord Ammo loading plant.

f. 941st Detachment at Jesburg captured 5 P/W's in vicinity.

#### 15. 6 April

a. Received notification that 941st FA Bn to be detached and revert to Army control, with mission of continuing security work under Army security control. The 656th FA will replace the 941st in the Arolsen area on 7 April.

b. 2nd Platoon, 2nd Co moved to Jesburg, took over guard of repeater station, and relieved 941st FA.

c. 3rd Co moved from ASP 147 and 150 to Bn Hq area Neustadt Wald, being transported by the provisional transportation platoon. This transportation platoon consists of all available transportation of 3rd TD Group and the Belgian Bn. Later it is expected to put into operating condition several captured trucks to augment the extremely limited transportation now available.

d. 4th Co captured 10 P/W's in vicinity of Neustadt Wald.

e. Received information that 997th FA Bn will be attached for operations, effective 7 May. Initial contacts were made today. The prospective area of employment is Kassel.

#### 16. 7 April

a. 3rd Co complete moved to the Fritzlär area and relieved 941st of guard of all installations in area.

b. The CO of 656th made initial contact with the Security Commander and was oriented as to missions and requirements.

c. The 656th FA completed relief of 941st FA in Arolsen area. The 941st will move to the Kassel area, having received that assignment by 1st Army.

d. The 997th FA was attached for security operations, effective 7 April to the Security Commander. The Bn is not now available for security duty. Arrangements were made to move 997th to Kassel area on 8 April where they will begin guard on several airfields, 1 plane factory, 1 tank factory, 1 hospital, 1 medical supply dump and 1 repeater station.

e. Received instructions to guard electric power plant at Borken, south of Fritzlär. Information through G-3 from 1st Army.

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f. Further consolidation was made in the Fachingen area, which relieved 1st Platoon of 2nd Co. This platoon moved to Neustadt Wald and was made ready to take over guard of the Borken power plant on 8 April. Over 100 truck loads of goods, mostly food, were hauled to effect the consolidation referred to.

g. 1st Lt Egrid, Hq V Corps, placed on DS with Security Command to relieve Lt Erikson, who returns to Hq V Corps.

h. Two Belgian soldiers saved from drowning, two American soldiers who were swimming in the Lahn river, near Kiez. The soldiers were carried to a nearby evacuation hospital.

i. The 2nd Platoon, 1st Co captured two P/W's near Cl I dump.

j. 1st Platoon, 5th Co captured two officers P/W's near the ordnance maintenance shop they were guarding. The P/W's endeavored to escape and were fired after. One of them was wounded.

17. 8 April

a. 1st Platoon, 2nd Co established guard at the Borken power plant.

b. 1st Platoon of 3rd Co guarded captured airfield, planes and bombs SE of Fritzlar at (H 065615) effective this date.

c. Lt Broad, area staff officer on DS from 941st FA Bn, notified to return to his unit tomorrow because the unit has been detached from Corps. Received information that Lt Bergman, on DS to the Security Commander from 200th FA is transferred to 9th Armored Division. Lt Hand has been sent to replace Lt Bergman, who will depart tomorrow. This is the 3rd experienced officer (of 4 total) we have lost in 2 days, to be replaced by inexperienced officers.

d. Received information that 997th FA Bn had been designated to begin security work in Gottingen. Thus they are to be relieved of security responsibility in Kassel and the 941st FA Bn will take over security and guard of all installations in the Kassel area.

e. The 2nd Platoon, 2nd Co captured 5 P/W's in vicinity Jesburg. A woods clearing operation east of Treysa, reportedly 50-60 SS troops, was almost negative, results were only 1 P/W. 5 armored cars and 50 men were employed.

f. 4th Co captured 4 P/W's vicinity Neustadt Wald.

18. 9 April

a. New Corps and Division rear boundaries have been announced effective 091200.

b. Elements of 656th commenced move to Hann Munden area today. Will guard repeater station as first priority and other installations as soon as sufficient troops arrive.

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- c. 941st FA with 2 Btrys began relief of 997th FA in Kassel area.
- d. A woods clearing operation in the Appenhain area for 20 German soldiers netted 1 German Captain and 6 P/W's of his unit.
- e. Lt Bergman was relieved of DS and returned to 200th FA Bn. He was replaced by Lt Hand, 200th FA who reported this date.
- f. 2nd Co captured 5 P/W's near Fachingen.  
3rd Platoon, 4th Co captured 1 P/W near Treysa.  
3rd Platoon, 1st Co captured 17 P/W's near Knickhagen.

19. 10 April

- a. 3rd TD Group Rear and 17th Belgian Fusilier Bn moved from Neustadt Wald to Zierenburg (B092086).
- b. A woods clearing operation North of Zierenburg on a reported 200 troops (using 15 men from 3rd TD Group and 70 Belgians) was negative. There had been 7 German soldiers there the night before.
- c. 4th Co complete, relieved of guard of Ordnance Ammo loading plant, Neustadt Wald. Their next assigned mission is to relieve 656th in Arolsen.
- d. The AA Platoon, 1st Co captured 17 P/W's at Knickhagen near Wofhagen.

20. 11 April

- a. 2nd Co Hq and 3rd Platoon were relieved of the guard in the Fachingen area and closed in the new location.
- b. 3rd Co captured 3 P/W's near Fritzlar.  
4th Co captured 6 P/W's near Allendorf (Neustadt Wald).  
2nd Co captured 5 P/W's near Fachingen.  
2nd Plat, 2nd Co captured 3 P/W's near Jesburg.  
Hq 17th Fus Bn captured 4 P/W's near Zierenburg.  
Hq 3rd TD Group captured 2 P/W's near Zierenburg.

21. 12 April

- a. 4th Co complete moved from Neustadt Wald to Arolsen, and relieved all elements of 656th FA in that area. This includes 9 hospitals, and Items No. 11 and 17.
- b. The 3rd Plat, 2nd Co moved from Neustadt Wald to the enemy ammo dump and loading plant at Phillipendorf relieving elemets of 656th FA Bn.
- c. The 656th FA Bn (Btry A) moved from the Arolsen-Phillipendorf to Witzenhausen area.

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d. 1st Platoon, 3rd Co relieved of guard of airfield SE of Fritzlar and was transported to Hq to be assigned another mission. 1st Platoon, 2nd Co relieved of guard of Borken power plant and was transported to Bn Hq to be assigned another mission.

e. 5th Co Hq captured 1 P/W near Fritzlar.

22. 13 April

a. 3rd Co Hq and 2nd Platoon were relieved of guard of installations in Fritzlar area and were transported to Bn Hq at Zierenberg. This was done by consolidation of guards resulting from the 3rd Co hauling approximately 85 - 3 ton truck loads of material to the central warehouse. 3rd Platoon, 3rd Co remained in Fritzlar.

b. The 997th FA closed complete in Gottingen on 11 April and took over guard of all installations already reported and made reconnaissance for other items of value which were not known.

c. New Corps and Division rear boundaries were announced by G-4 effective 1200 today.

d. 3rd Plat, 2nd Co captured 4 P/W's in Phillipendorf area.  
1st Plat, 1st Co captured 19 P/W's near Weissensee - Airstrip.  
5th Co Hq captured 1 P/W near 526th Ord Co.  
5th Co captured 1 Gauleiter of Medebach-Korbach.

23. 14 April

a. 2nd Co Hq and 1st Platoon moved from Zierenburg to Hann Munden to relieve Btry A, 656th FA Bn. They took over guard of Items 68, 55 and 58 and will patrol No. 57.

b. One Btry of 656th FA and one Btry of 997th FA moved to vicinity Lossa for possible fire missions on Leipzig under the direction of V Corps Artillery.

c. 1st Platoon, 3rd Co moved from Zierenburg to Hann Munden area to relieve 656th FA and took over guard of No. 25, 26, 27.

d. 3rd TD Group RR and 17th Belgian Bn moved from Zierenburg to Heiligenstadt.

e. 3rd Plat, 5th Co captured 1 P/W vicinity Ord Maintenance Co.  
1st Plat, 1st Co captured 10 P/W's vicinity Victor Airstrip.  
2nd Plat, 1st Co captured 33 P/W's vicinity Cl I and II dumps including a 10 man combat squad complete with weapons, including 5 MGs.  
2nd Plat, 2nd Co captured 1 pilot who landed a plane near Jesburg.

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a. 3rd Co Hq and 2nd Platoon moved from Heiligenstadt to Witzzenhausen, and relieved elements of 656th FA on guard of Items No. 69, 129, 72, 54, 65, 47, 142.

b. 2nd Platoon, 2nd Co relieved from guard of Jesburg Repeater Station and moved to Heiligenstadt, for staging over night in preparation for another mission. 1st Section of 3rd Platoon, 3rd Co from Fritzlar relieved 2nd Platoon, 2nd Co.

c. The volume of P/W and suspects in civilian clothes has grown to such proportions that it has been necessary to form an interrogation team from personnel available in this Hq. Accordingly Sgt J. H. Thoeing and Cpl P. J. Michaelus have been assigned additional duties as interrogators.

- d. 1st Plat, 1st Co captured 3 P/W's vicinity Naumberg.  
 3rd Plat, 1st Co captured 6 P/W's vicinity Flemmingen.  
 3rd Plat, 5th Co captured 1 P/W.  
 3rd Plat, 5th Co captured 11 P/W's vicinity Phillipendorf.  
 Bn Hq captured 1 P/W vicinity Heiligenstadt.

25. 16 April

a. Elements of 656th FA moved to Naumberg and took over guard of all installations (116, 117, 118, 119, 120) in the town.

b. 2nd Co Hq and 1st Plat moved from Hann Munden area to Heiligenstadt in preparation for move forward today. 1st Platoon, 3rd Co remained in Hann Munden area and guarded Items No. 25, 55, 58 and 68. Items 26 and 27 were discontinued because of their small value.

c. 2nd Co Hq and 1st Platoon moved to Sommerda and relieved elements of 656th FA there and on the following items: No. 124, 113, 114, 125.

d. 2nd Platoon, 2nd Co moved to Ebeleben area to take over guard of signal items No. 104, 104A-B-C-D, 105, 105A, 133, 139, 140, and 71 as temporary guard until reinforcements can arrive.

e. A report of an expected attack by isolated troops in the area Herrengrossestadt (J 6288) was investigated by a troop of 102nd Cavalry Sqdn. Two (2) P/W's, each with machine pistol were captured.

- f. 2nd Plat, 1st Co captured 10 P/W's  
 1st Co Hq captured 14 P/W's.  
 3rd Plat, 1st Co captured 25 P/W's vicinity Flemmingen.  
 4th Co captured 1 P/W vicinity Arolsen.  
 Hq 3rd TD Group captured 2 P/W's vicinity Heiligenstadt.  
 Lt Donovan captured 2 SS posing as civilians.

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26. 17 April

a. A "shake-down" unit to be known as "The Flying Wedge" was organized by the Security Commander. This unit has as its mission the combing of towns, villages and woods in rear areas for German soldiers in and out of uniform. This will be composed of MGSB personnel to handle "civilians", CIC personnel to check those of unusual interest, and 1 platoon of Cavalry.

b. Two platoons of 5th Co were made available to 254th Engr (C) Bn to ride trains they were operating. The platoons have the mission of guarding the P/W's, gasoline and other supplies they were transporting.

c. 3rd Plat, 1st Co captured 27 P/W's - killed 2 others - wounded 5 in firefight.

Hq Bn captured 1 P/W vicinity Heiligenstadt.

4th Co Hq captured 1 P/W vicinity Witzenhausen.

2nd Co captured 11 P/W's vicinity Sommerda-Leubingen.

27. 18 April

a. Elements of 997th FA moved from Gottingen to an area within firing range of Leipzig with possible mission of firing into Leipzig. Relief of guard is being made by 172nd FA effective this date.

b. 1 Btry of 656th FA took over guard of Items No. 131, 115, 151, 151A, relieving Division units.

c. 3rd Platoon of 3rd Co relieved of guard of items in Fritzlar - Jesburg area and were transported to Heiligenstadt as staging area in preparation for assignment of other mission.

d. The "Flying Wedge" unit operated in Fodelist (J 8698) and Markroitz (J 8998) and took 30 P/W's.

e. Hq Bn captured 1 P/W vicinity Heiligenstadt.

3rd Plat, 1st Co captured 16 P/W's vicinity Flemmingen.

3rd Plat, 1st Co captured 11 P/W's vicinity Seehausen.

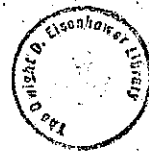
2nd Plat, 2nd Co captured 6 P/W's vicinity Ebeleben.

"C" Co 656th FA captured 28 P/W's.

28. 19 April

a. 4th Co complete has been relieved of guard of all items in Arolsen and vicinity. This includes 9 hospitals and No. 11 and 17. The Co moved to the Glider Factory (Item No. 69) as a temporary staging area pending assigned of a new mission. The 3rd Platoon of 2nd Co was relieved of ammunition assembly plant and Ammo dump vicinity Phillipendorf. They were transported direct to the Sondershausen area where they relieved guards of Items No. 71, 71A, 133, 139, and 146. Five men from AA Platoon, Hq Co were sent as temporary guard of Ammunition factory No. 146 near SE Sondershausen.

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b. The 2nd Platoon of 3rd Co removed guards on Items No. 69 and 72 and guards were replaced by 3rd Platoon of 3rd Co.

c. The 3rd Platoon of 3rd Co moved from Heiligenstadt to take over guard of Items No. 72, 157, 158, 159, 145, 104C, and 160.

- d. Hq 3rd TD Group captured 14 P/W's vicinity Heiligenstadt.
- Hq 17th Bn captured 5 P/W's vicinity Heiligenstadt.
- 1st Plat, 2nd Co captured 2 P/W's vicinity Sommerda.
- 3rd Plat, 1st Co captured 2 P/W's
- 2nd Plat, 1st Co captured 7 P/W's vicinity Heiligenstadt Cl I dump.

29. 20 April

a. The 2nd Platoon of 2nd Co was relieved of guarding Items No. 71, 71A, 133 and 139 and moved the Platoon Hq to Ebeleben at Item No. 104 and 160. Item No. 104 was first discovered and reported to be a warehouse of signal equipment in the railroad yards at Ebeleben. Further investigation revealed that signal equipment of this same type was stored in most all villages and farms along about 40 miles of railroad. To guard each installation with one post would have taken more men than was available to the entire Corps Security. Accordingly, this equipment was examined and that of value was transported to Ebeleben as the central storage space. The remainder of the equipment was classified "Valuable junk" and the owner in whose house, or the Burgermeister in whose town, this equipment was stored was charged with the responsibility of safekeeping. Over 140 truck loads of equipment was hauled to Ebeleben in the consolidation process.

b. The 997th FA was relieved from operational control by Corps Security Commander and reverted to control of V Corps Artillery.

c. The "Flying Wedge" was in operation in Saaldick and Bad Salza, taking 6 P/W's.

d. Contact was established with representative of 8th Armd Div for relief of guards of installations in the area East and NE of Kassel which they are to take over.

e. The 2nd Platoon of 3rd Co started guard of Items No. 113, 114, and 108A. On this same day authority was received from CIC to remove guard from No. 113 and 114. The guard was removed on 21 April.

- f. Hq Bn captured 4 P/W vicinity Schlotheim.
- Hq 3rd TD Group captured 2 P/W's (2 officers) Schlotheim.
- 3rd Platoon, 1st Co captured 4 P/W's vicinity Flemmingen.
- 2nd Plat, 1st Co captured 2 P/W's.

30. 21 April

a. The report received through the VII Corps to the effect that there were 200 German soldiers led by Gestapo and SS hiding in the woods east of Worbis (C 8417) has been investigated. There was no evidence of the woods having been occupied. Four towns near the woods were investigated and 17 P/W's were picked up.

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b. The 4th Co Hq and 1st and 2nd Platoons moved from the Glider factory (No. 69) to relieve elements of 656th FA in the vicinity of Lossa. They took over guard of No. 103, 103A, 151, 152 and several items not yet assigned a number, including a sugar mill in Quefurt.

c. The "Flying Wedge" operated in 4 towns in the Corps zone and collected weapons in all the towns and a total of 56 P/W's in two towns.

d. The AA Platoon guarding No. 146 was relieved by the 3rd Platoon of 2nd Co and returned to Bn Hq.

e. Elements of 656th FA assumed guard of No. 174, 165, 168, 167, 150, 128, 120A, 175.

f. Hq 3rd TD Gp and 3rd Plat, 4th Co captured 17 P/W's vicinity Worbis.  
 2nd Plat, 2nd Co captured 6 P/W's vicinity Ebeleben.  
 1st Plat, 1st Co captured 1 P/W vicinity Naumberg-Airstrip.  
 1st Plat, 2nd Co captured 5 P/W's vicinity Sommerda.  
 3rd Plat, 1st Co captured 3 P/W's vicinity Flemmingen.  
 2nd Plat, 3rd Co captured 1 P/W vicinity Witzenhausen.

31. 22 April

a. For several days reports had been received of sniper fire and ambushes from the woods in the vicinity of Lossa. Accordingly the Security Commander organized a search of the wooded area to take place over a period of 2 days from the general vicinity of Lossa northwest to Sondershausen. The 38th Cavalry Sqdn., one Btry of 656th FA, elements of 62nd Armd FA, a detachment of MGSG and CIC and elements of 4th Co (Belgian) were used on this manhunt. The first days activity accomplished the following:

Btry "A", 62nd FA captured 13 P/W's.  
 38th Cavalry - 16 killed and captured 49.  
 4th Co, Belgians - captured 6 P/W's.

b. Elements of 656th FA assumed guard of Items No. 137A, 111.

c. The records contained in the NSDAP house at Sondershausen (No. 133) were removed to the SS Hq at Bad Frankenhausen (No. 147) and the 3 man guard moved to No. 147.

d. 1st Platoon, 2nd Co captured 5 P/W's vicinity Sommerda.

32. 23 April

a. The results for the two day clean up mission in the rear area, as reported by the 38th Cavalry are as follows:

28 enemy killed, 273 enemy captured, 1 German Cub plane shot down with 2 Hungarian officers.  
 The Cavalry losses were 1 killed and 1 wounded.

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b. The 3rd TD Group collected weapons which civilians had failed to turn in to Military Government in two towns and P/W's in four towns. A total of 20 P/W's were taken in the operations.

c. 4th Co Hq and 2nd Platoon moved from Lossa to Naumberg, there relieving 656th FA on guard of Items No. 116, 117, 118, 119, 120.

- d. 5th Co Hq captured 4 P/W's.  
 3rd Plat, 1st Co captured 2 P/W's vicinity Flemmingen.  
 Hq Bn captured 5 P/W's vicinity Schlotheim.  
 2nd Co Hq captured 13 P/W's vicinity Sommerda.  
 2nd Plat, 4th Co captured 1 P/W vicinity Duerfurt.  
 2nd Plat, 3rd Co captured 25 P/W's vicinity installations guarded.  
 3rd Plat, 3rd Co captured 15 P/W's vicinity installations guarded.  
 2nd Co Hq captured 1 P/W vicinity Lossa.  
 2nd Plat, 2nd Co captured 11 P/W's vicinity Ebeleben.



33. 24 April

a. 3rd TD Group and 3rd Platoon, 4th Co searched two villages for weapons and P/W's. Weapons were collected in both towns and 7 P/W's were picked up.

b. 1st Plat, 2nd Co participated in a woods patrol with a platoon of Cavalry. Twenty (20) P/W's were taken from the woods where they were in hiding.

c. The number of instances of P/W's stating that American units have told them to "get into civvies, get off the highway, and cause no trouble" has increased to the extent that a report was made to Corps in an effort to get this practice stopped.

d. Large numbers of soldiers in civvies are picked up by outlying units on suspicion or because they are by their own admission travel violators. The interrogation team has over a period of several days determined that approximately 2/3 of these persons picked up in civilian clothes are bona-fide soldiers many not yet having thrown away their soldbuch. One P/W with soldbuch in his possession stated that he was stopped 3 times by Americans at posts on the highway. Each time he told them that he was a civilian, and they did not ask to see his papers, so he did not show them.

e. Elements of 656th FA received mission to relieve Belgians attached to 3250 Signal Co from guard of Item No. 171. The 656th FA was in turn relieved by 1 platoon of Cavalry. Item No. 171 was a large radio intercept station where cryptographic experts decoded radio traffic of other countries. Many cryptographic documents from allied countries were found, and the cellar contained vaults of records claimed to have recently been moved from Berlin.

f. The "Flying Wedge" operated in four towns in the Corps zone and took 23 P/W's.

- g. 5th Co captured 5 P/W's  
 2nd Co captured 5 P/W's vicinity Sommerda.

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1st Plat, 4th Co captured 5 P/W's vicinity Lossa.  
 2nd Plat, 4th Co captured 10 P/W's vicinity Lossa.  
 2nd Plat, 1st Co captured 5 P/W's vicinity AI DP.  
 3rd Plat, 1st Co captured 5 P/W's vicinity Flemmingen.  
 2nd Plat, 3rd Co captured 20 P/W's  
 2nd Plat, 2nd Co captured 3 P/W's vicinity Toba.

34. 25 April

a. The 3rd TD Group, 15 men from Belgian Bn Hq and 3rd Platoon, 4th Co searched the woods North of Bad Frankenhausen and 3 towns and villages adjacent to the woods. This was in response to repeated reports of SS in hiding in the woods. 10 P/W's were taken, none SS, and a small quantity of weapons which had not been turned in as directed by Military Government.

b. 4th Co captured 11 P/W's vicinity Naumberg.  
 3rd Plat, 1st Co killed 1, wounded 2, captured 3 in firefight SW of Naumberg. 1 Belgian soldier wounded.  
 2nd Plat, 3rd Co captured 30 P/W's vicinity Witzenshausen (including Gestapo chief of Kassel).  
 3rd Plat, 2nd Co captured 3 P/W's vicinity Ichstadt.

35. 26 April

a. The 3rd Platoon, 4th Co discontinued the search of towns assignment and moved to Freyburg to relieve elements of 656th FA and guard Items No. 150, 160, 161, 165, 167 and an un-numbered factory National Cash-Register.

b. The 1st Co Hq and 2nd Plat (- 1 section) were relieved of duty with the QM as guards of CI I and III dumps and were moved from Gensungen to Schlotheim.

c. Contact was established with units of 8th Armd Div and 23d TD Group who are moving into the area of the 3rd Co and 2nd and 3rd Platoons of 2nd Co for relief of the Belgians on 27 April.

d. Seven Belgian soldiers of AA Platoon returned to duty with Bn after working with 16th BXS since 1 April. The BXS still has the entire Pioneer Platoon.

e. 4th Co commenced guarding (1) 4 small warehouses of Signal equipment, No. 177, at Bad kosen, relieving elements of VIII Corps and (2) Repeater Station (No. 137A) at Mucheln.

f. 1st Plat, 1st Co captured 1 P/W vicinity Naumberg - Airstrip.  
 2nd Plat, 3rd Co captured 3 P/W's vicinity Witzenshausen.  
 3rd Plat, 2nd Co captured 14 P/W's vicinity Sondershausen.  
 1st Plat, 4th Co captured 1 P/W vicinity Lossa.  
 2nd Plat, 4th Co captured 88 P/W's vicinity Quefuert (Hungarians)  
 1st Plat, 3rd Co captured 5 P/W's vicinity Bad Frankenhausen.

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SECRET36. 27 April

a. The 3rd Co Hq and 1st and 2nd Platoons was relieved of guard of all items in the Witzzenhausen area by the 259th FA (part of 23d MD Group); and of all items in the Hann Munden area by elements of 8th Armd Div.

b. The 3rd Co Hq and 2nd Platoon moved from Witzzenhausen to Artern, with the mission there of apprehending all stray P/W's and collecting all military weapons which were not turned in according to Military Government orders.

c. The 1st Platoon, 3rd Co moved from Hann Munden to Bad Frankenhausen with mission of apprehending all stray P/W's and collecting all weapons which were not turned in according to Military Government orders.

d. The "Flying Wedge" operated in 3 towns and picked up 11 P/W's.

e. The 2nd Platoon, 5th Co, was relieved of duty with 177 Ord Bn and commenced duty with 16th BDS to assist in ammunition and weapons collection and destruction.

f. 1st Plat, 4th Co captured 4 P/W's vicinity Lossa.  
 1st Plat, 2nd Co captured 6 P/W's vicinity Sommerda.  
 2nd Plat, 2nd Co captured 2 P/W's vicinity Toba.

37. 28 April

a. The 2nd Platoon, 2nd Co relieved by elements 172nd FA of guard of No. 104, 104A-B-C-D and all items West of Ebeleben. They continue guarding No. 105, 105A and unnumbered items East of Ebeleben.

b. The 3rd Platoon, 2nd Co was relieved of all items in the Sonderhausen area as follows: No. 71 and 71A relieved by 172nd FA and No. 139 and 146 by 3rd Platoon of 3rd Co. The 3rd Platoon, 2nd Co moved to Weissensee, with the mission of collecting stray P/W's in this area. This move was for the purposes of consolidation of units and forward displacement.

c. The 3rd Platoon, 3rd Co was relieved by 172nd FA of guard of Items No. 69, 72, 145, 157, 158, and 159. The platoon moved to Item No. 146 in the Sonderhausen area, thus taking over guard missions of 3rd Platoon, 2nd Co, and by this consolidation, freeing one platoon for future missions.

d. Investigated a shooting and SS report from the vicinity of Hain sent by an adjacent Corps. Three towns were searched. Eleven (11) P/W's,

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40 army rifles, 2 MGs, 1 SMG, 1 Pistol, 3000 rds SAA, grenades and military clothing were picked up. There were no SS and the shooting was done by a civilian, at another civilian.

e. Information was received that, effective 1800, VII Corps would take over Security responsibility for the present V Corps sector, with the actual relief of guards, to take place in one to two days.

f. On this date confirmation was made of a situation which has long been suspected. Two soldiers in civilian clothes were picked up, both of whom were in possession of bona-fide soldbuchs and Wehrpasses. One of the soldiers told, in substance, this story:

"When his unit was cut off and the situation looked hopeless, the Captain took off, leaving a Lt in charge. This was in the area of the Harz Mts. The Co was down to 20 men and the Lt, so the Lt assembled them together, had the Company clerk pass out to each of them a wehrpass, and then told them to get home the best way they could. This soldier took his Wehrpass and departed, donning civvies somewhere along the way. He departed Sandersleben, vicinity (D 5080) on 20 April, having received his Wehrpass on that day.

This soldier was apprehended vicinity Lossa by the Belgians, having traveled that far without being molested by Americans. He states that the Company clerk kept the Wehrpasses of the soldiers of the company current by making entries at regular intervals. The Wehrpass was issued in Jan 39 and has entries at intervals since that time, through July 44. The soldier was drafted in Aug 39."

g. On this date also we apprehended the first of a number of soldiers (in civilian clothes) who were in possession of temporary registration forms issued by Military Government. They had received these forms through the Burgermeister, who was responsible for issuing the blank forms for the civilians to fill in.

- h. Hq 3rd TD Group captured 5 P/W's (2 officers - all armed).
- Hq Bn captured 5 P/W's vicinity Schlotheim.
- 1st Plat, 2nd Co captured 2 P/W's vicinity Leubingen (1 off)
- 2nd Plat, 2nd Co captured 11 P/W's vicinity Ebeleben.
- 3rd Plat, 2nd Co captured 12 P/W's vicinity Sondershausen.
- 656th FA Bn captured 30 P/W's.

### 38. 29 April

a. 3rd TD Group Rear, 17th Belgian Bn Hq, and 1st Co Hq and 2nd Plat moved from Schlotheim to Rossleben.

b. The 3rd Platoon, 2nd Co was moved from Weissensee to Rossleben; the 1st Platoon, 3rd Co was moved from Bad Frankenhausen to Artern, and 3rd Co Hq and 2nd Platoon was alerted for movement South to the new area (the Kronach-Goburg-Bayreuth) assigned to V Corps.

c. Plans were completed for the relief of 656th FA today and for their departure on 30 April for the new area.

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d. The VII Corps notified this Hq that they will relieve us with elements of 3rd Armd Div, 69th Inf Div; 104th Inf Div and Corps Artillery. Relief will be for all items guarded by 656th FA Bn and 17th Belgian Bn.

- e. 1st Plat, 2nd Co captured 1 P/W vicinity Sommerda.
- 1st Plat, 3rd Co captured 2 P/W's vicinity Bad Frankenhausen.
- 2nd Plat, 3rd Co captured 25 P/W's vicinity Artern (incl 1 SS)
- 2nd Plat, 4th Co captured 8 P/W's vicinity Lossa (incl 1 SS)
- 2nd Plat, 2nd Co captured 11 P/W's vicinity Ebeleben.

39. 30 April

a. V Corps Rear Area Security Section, 3rd TD Group, departed Naumberg, and moved to Grafenwohr, Germany (P 0030), where the Corps assumed responsibility for a new sector.

b. The 3rd Co minus 3rd Platoon with 3rd Platoon, 2nd Co, departed for new area NINE Bayreuth under command of Captain Ferris and Lt Hand. They will place guards on all installations taken over by V Corps from XII in the sector assigned the 17th Belgian Bn. Readjustments to thicken up the guard will be made as more Belgians arrive on 1st and 2nd May.

c. Relief of the 2nd Co has been completed by elements of 3rd Armd Div, and the 2nd Co (minus 3rd Plat) and 3rd Platoon of 3rd Co has been assembled at Sommerda (No. 124) in preparation for move to new area on 2 May.

d. The 4th Co has commenced assembly in Lossa and will complete this assembly as soon as they are relieved in their area by elements of 3rd Armd Division.

e. The 1st Platoon, 5th Co was relieved of Train guard with 254th Engr and was returned to control of 177th Ord at Weissenfels, in preparation for movement to new area vicinity Bayreuth.

f. The 3rd Platoon, 1st Co moved with 3250th Signal Sev Co from Flemmingen to Grossenreuth (3 km NW of Grafenwohr).

g. The 1st Platoon, 1st Co moved with Victor Air Strip to vicinity of Grafenwohr.

- h. 2nd Co Hq captured 15 P/W's vicinity Sommerda.
- 2nd Platoon, 2nd Co captured 10 P/W's vicinity Ebeleben.
- 3rd Plat, 2nd Co captured 8 P/W's vicinity Newmarkt (new area).
- 2nd Plat, 4th Co captured 13 P/W's vicinity Lossa-Wiehe-Kahlwinkel.

40. During the month, the 16th BDS worked in the zone of the Corps, collecting weapons and ammunition which could be used by saboteurs, enemy soldiers in hiding, fanatical civilians, etc., The BDS had attached to them the Pioneer Platoon with a strength of 19 men, and nine (9) men of the AA Platoon both from Hq Co of the 17th Belgian Fusilier Bn. The accomplishment as reported by the BDS was as follows;

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- 5847 tons - Ammunition and explosives
- 14 tons - Weapons (measured by truckloads)
- 77,448 pieces - Weapons counted
- Removed charges from 4 bridges.
- Removed 12 dud airplane bombs.

41. Summary of activities of the Rear Area Security Section and troops under its operational control is as follows:

a. Enemy	<u>CAPTURED</u>	<u>KILLED</u>	<u>WOUNDED</u>
3rd TD Group	27		
TD - Belgian Shakedown-unit	84		
Belgian Bn	889	4	8
38th Cavalry Sqdn	275*	28	
656th FA Bn	30**		
941st FA Bn	21**		
"Flying Wedge"	120		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1446</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>8</b>



\* This represents only the two days during which the Cavalry operated at the direction of the Security Commander.

\*\* Only reports received. Total for the month is unknown, but is believed more than this.

b. Casualties sustained:

38th Cavalry - 1 killed, 1 wounded

17th Belgian Bn - 1 wounded

c. Supplies or equipment hauled for purposes of consolidation:

Signal equipment ----- 140 truck loads (2½ ton equiv)  
 Foodstuffs ----- 100 truck loads  
 Class II and IV ----- 85 truck loads

d. All installations were either (1) guarded in place or, (2) eliminated by consolidation, issue or destruction. In all cases, a report of the nature of the contents of the installations was made to the appropriate technical staff agency.

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e. There were several instances of ambush of single vehicles in the Corps sector during the month. However none of the installations under guard or surveillance in the Corps sector were sabotaged or damaged. Several attempts were made, but the alertness of the guards secured the installation and in most cases the enemy was captured, killed or wounded.



SAMUEL E. MAYS  
Colonel, Infantry  
Commanding

1 Inclosure:

V Corps Rear Area Security Journal,  
from 1 April to 30 April 1945.

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